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14 SEP 27 1999 MR. TUCKER: My name is George Tucker. I'll
15 read most of what I have to say and then add a few comments at
16 the end.

17 Initial comments on the DOE proposal to store
18 70,000 pounds of long life radio isotopes at Yucca Mountain in
19 Nevada.

20 Since I've had no opportunity to read the Draft
21 Environmental Impact Statement, most of my comments at this
22 time will address the failure of the DOE to involve the
23 residents of Amargosa Valley, Beatty and the surrounding
24 districts in the decision-making process.

25 Also the failure of the DOE to comply with the

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1 National Environmental Policy Act, NEPA.

2 No notices of this crucial meeting at the
3 Amargosa Community Center, September 27th, 1999 have been
4 posted to my knowledge. Good places would be the post office,
5 library and community center bulletin board itself.

6 No mail notices have been sent to the affected
7 residents.

8 The regulations governing the implementation of
9 NEPA require as examples Section 1500.2(D): Federal agencies
10 shall to the fullest extent possible encourage and facilitate
11 public involvement in decisions which affect the quality of the
12 human environment.

13 Section 1506.6(A): Agencies shall mandatory make
14 diligent efforts to involve the public in preparing and
15 implementing their NEPA procedures; and B, provide public
16 notice of NEPA related hearings.

17 If that wasn't specific enough, there is Section
18 1503.1(A), subparagraph 4: The agencies shall request comments
19 from the public affirmatively soliciting comments from those
20 persons who may be interested or affected.

21 There has been an abject failure of DOE to abide
22 either by the letter or the spirit of these regulations. No
23 posting of notifying by mail of this meeting.

24 It is therefore reasonable to assume that the
25 majority of people most affected by the proposal to dump a

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1 massive amount of long life radioactive -- radioactive waste
2 have been excluded from the decision-making process.

3 Will the agency in the future notice meetings at
4 the places stated above? Will they also mail such notices to
5 Amargosa and Beatty residents?

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6 Now, when I look at the text of the National
7 Environmental Policy Act itself, Section 102(1)(C), item 3, it
8 states: All agencies of the Federal Government shall include
9 in every recommendation or report a detailed statement by
10 responsible officials on alternatives to the proposed actions.

11 Where is such a statement?

12 Anticipating what your response will be, that the
13 Nuclear Waste act has exempted them, I would contend that the
14 Nuclear Waste Act cannot exempt or set aside national policy.

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15 Now, as -- as to the proposal as I have
16 understood it from other sources, it is proposed to store this
17 dangerously radioactive waste in a mountain that is
18 geologically faulted, through which water percolates in fifty
19 years or less in the underlying aquifer and which lies within a
20 few miles of recent volcanism.

21 Are we crazy or what, or is the DOE crazy? Maybe
22 we just don't care much beyond our own lifespans. That future
23 generations take care of themselves?

24 I have a few more comments, but that was the bulk
25 of it.

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1 The first one that comes to mind is the very poor
2 response of the DOE. They have failed to respond to my earlier
3 questions.

4 There was a meeting about a year ago on the trans
5 uranic wastes which I asked a question how much would there be.
6 No one has responded to me about that, despite many calls.

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7 Now, a gentleman mentioned something about the
8 data which support the leakage of Yucca Mountain, and I'm
9 reading here from Science News November 1st, 1997, page 277.

10 "Donald S. Sweetkind of the US Geological Survey
11 in Denver reported on measurements made during an exploratory
12 tunnel cutting through the mountains. His group detected
13 elevated concentrations of chlorine 36, a radioactive isotope
14 in rock samples taken from several locations near the tunnel.

15 "The chlorine 36, says Sweetkind, comes from
16 above nuclear ground weapons tests conducted in the 1950s and
17 the 1960s.

18 "Its presence in the tunnel at four times the
19 natural concentration indicates that rainwater has traveled
20 through fractures in the rock reaching several hundred meters
21 into the mountain in four decays."

22 MR. BROWN: Wrap up.

23 MR. TUCKER: Okay. Thank you.

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24 "It's certainly a bad sign." This is Donald
25 Sweetkind, US Geological Survey.

1 Finally, I did attend the meeting by the members
2 of the State Agency on Nuclear Waste on Thursday, and there's
3 an example of how it is unreliable.

4 I have found that they listened to what we had to
5 say, and mostly what they did was write down our concerns.
6 They in no way prompted us to be in any way against this
7 project.

8 Anyway, that was my perception of what happened
9 there.

10 Thank you very much. That's all I have to say.

11 MS. DIXON: Appreciate your comments.

12 MR. TUCKER: Okay.

13 MR. BROWN: Thank you.

14 MR. TUCKER: You're welcome.

15 MR. BROWN: Our next speaker -- is it Goedhart?

16 MR. GOEDHART: Goedhart.

17 MR. BROWN: Goedhart.